

The Second Coming of Christ Revelation 19

Revelation 19 Introduction

- John's Outline for the Book of Revelation is found in Revelation 1:19:
 - The things which you have seen = The glorified Christ, found in Chapter 1.
 - The things which are = issues concerning the Church, found in Chapters 2-3.
 - The things which will take place after this, found in Chapters 4-22.
- We may further divide that last, very long section as follows:
- The things which will take place after this, found in Chapters 4-22.
 - Ch. 4-5 The scene in heaven including the completed Church – now with the Lord.
 - Ch. 6-19 The seven-year Tribulation.
 - Ch. 20-22 Events after Christ's return.
- This chapter ends Revelation's preview of the seven-year Tribulation period.
- As the Old Testament led up to Christ's first coming, the New Testament has been leading up to this.
- Revelation 19 can be considered the climax of the entire Bible.
- The Messiah is coming, but no longer as a suffering servant.
- This time He comes as a conquering King, to judge evil and establish His kingdom on earth.

Revelation 19 Outline

- 1) 19:1-10 Praises in Heaven
- 2) 19:11-16 The Glorious Appearing
- 3) 19:17-21 Judgment on Earth

Praises in Heaven 19:1-10

- 19:1 A great multitude is praising God. This may be the same multitude of tribulation saints we saw in Revelation 7:9.
- Alleluia! This is the Greek spelling of the Hebrew word *Hallelujah*, meaning "Praise the Lord!"
- More commonly used in the Old Testament, it appears in the New four times – all of them in this section.
- 19:6 If we learn nothing else from this section, we learn that the worship in heaven is loud!
- We might compare the sound to a crowded stadium full of people cheering in the midst of a huge storm with the loud bangs of thunder and pouring rain.
- There is no half-hearted, lifeless worship in the actual presence of God.
- Even without the thunder and multitudes, why should there ever be now?
 - *"God is to be praised with the voice, and the heart should go therewith in holy exultation."*
– Charles H. Spurgeon
 - *"Worship is first and foremost for His benefit, not ours, though it is marvelous to discover that in giving Him pleasure, we ourselves enter into what can become our richest and most wholesome experience in life."*
– Graham Kendrick

- "Without worship, we go about miserable." – A.W. Tozer

*"I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart
I will tell of all Your marvelous works.
I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."*

– Psalm 9:1-2 (NKJV)

- 19:7 His wife has made herself ready
- At present we, the church, are being prepared for our wedding.
- Paul saw his work in a similar light.
 - See 2 Corinthians 11:2
- 19:9 the marriage supper of the Lamb
- Robert L. Thomas points out that the Greek word *Deipnon*, "Supper"
 - *"is the same word used for the Lord's Supper that Christ instituted for the church (1 Cor. 11:20), but the Lord's Supper is not the same as the marriage supper of the Lamb which fulfills the commemorative suppers practiced by local churches and is exclusively future in connection with Christ's second advent."*
- Later, we'll consider the connection between the three New Testament suppers.
- Then we'll close by taking *the Lord's Supper* together.
- 19:10 The angel refuses John's act of worship. Jesus Christ does not.
- Compare, for example:
 - Matthew 2:11, 8:2, 9:18, 14:33, 15:25, 28:9
 - Revelation 1:17.
- 19:10 The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy
- The primary focus of prophecy, in both the Old and New Testaments, is always Jesus Christ.
- Any study of prophecy that takes our eyes off of Him is misguided.

The Glorious Appearing 19:11-16

- 19:11 called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war
- One of the more frequent accusations the Lord's enemies bring against Him is that He is unjust in His judgments.
- This is not true, as the Book of Revelation frequently reminds us.
 - See also 15:3-4, 16:5-7 and 19:2.
- The age-old longing of Israel is now fulfilled.
 - See Isaiah 64:1-2
- See also:
 - Zechariah 14:3-4
 - Matthew 24:29-30
 - Jude 1:14-15

- 19:12 many crowns
- The crowns that Jesus wears use the Greek word *diadema* – the crown of royalty and authority.
- Our crowns all use the word *stephanos* – the crown of reward or achievement.

- 19:13 a robe dipped in blood
- This blood is the blood of Christ’s enemies, which He slays upon His return.
 - See Isaiah 63:2-6
 - Compare this with v.15.

- 19:13 The Word of God
- This is the only place where Jesus is given this full title
- He is referred to as the Word in John 1, which is an important link in the shared authorship of the two books.
- In the Bible, the Word of God is not a lifeless concept, thought or sound, but an all-powerful, active cause or influence.

- 19:14 the armies in heaven, clothed in white linen, white and clean, followed Him
- These armies will include us.
- See Colossians 3:4 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14.
- See v.8 regarding the fine linen.

- Why are we returning to earth with Jesus? He obviously doesn’t need our help in the battle.
- We are returning to reign with Him!
- He will replace the godless governments of the earth with his own chosen army of administrators.
- See 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 5:9-10, 20:6

- 19:15 Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword
- This imagery has been used before.
- See the following:
 - Ephesians 6:17
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - Revelation 1:16; 2:12 & 16 and later 19:21
 - Judgment on Earth 19:17-21

Judgment on Earth 19:17-21

- 19:17-18 the supper of the great God
- A previous supper was mentioned in 19:9, namely, “the marriage supper of the Lamb”
- Those invited to the first will feast with Christ in celebration of His marriage to the church.
- The birds are invited to this supper to feast on the bodies of the slain armies of those who oppose Christ when He comes.

- 19:19 These armies were gathered together at the pouring out of the sixth bowl in Revelation 16:13-16.
- They were deceived by frog-like demons into thinking they could do battle against Jesus Christ at His return.

- 19:20 These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

- No one else, not even Satan, will be cast into the lake of fire until after the White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennium.
- Only the Beast and the False Prophet go there immediately at Christ's return.
- 19:20 Brimstone is another word for sulfur, or the sulfurous material found in volcanic areas – which tends to smell like rotten eggs.
- When burning it not only stinks, but produces toxic gases (SO₂ and H₂S), which are extremely irritating to the eyes and respiratory tract.
- 19:20 The lake of fire was originally meant for the devil and his angels.
- It was not the Lord's original goal that people should ever go there.
- See Matthew 25:41
- 19:20 For those offended by the imagery of the lake of fire, Robert L. Thomas reminds us, *"Because no one has yet experienced the lake of fire, it is difficult to portray in human language the awful nature of that punishment. The figure of the burning lake is God's chosen imagery for visualizing eternity separated from Him. One should remember that figures of speech are always less than the reality, not more!"*
- 19:21 And all the birds were filled with their flesh
- This is the supper of 19:17-18.

Conclusions: Supper's Ready

- That final scene of supper is pretty gruesome.
- The choice in Revelation 19 seems to be between:
 1. Enjoying a marriage supper with Jesus
 2. Becoming supper for the birds
- Still, the overall theme of Supper is a key one within the storyline of the New Testament.
- It is a very positive picture and essential to our understanding of Jesus and how we relate to Him.
- **Three Major New Testament Suppers:**
 1. The Last Supper
 - Luke 22:14-20
 2. The Lord's Supper
 - 1 Corinthians 10:23-26
 3. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - Revelation 19:4-9